

### AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 39 – 67 and enter new claims 68 - 95, which read as follows:

68. (New) A polymer matrix composition for plastics applications consisting essentially of:

- (a) a pigment, said pigment comprising an inorganic pigmentary base that has been treated with an organo-acid phosphate compound having the formula:



wherein  $x = 1$  or  $2$ ,  
 $y = 3 - x$ , and  
R is an organic group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms;  
and

- (b) a polymer.

69. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, copolymers of ethylene with alpha-olefins containing 4 to 12 carbon atoms, polypropylene, polycarbonates and polystyrene.

70. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 69, wherein said polymer is polyethylene.

71. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein said pigment comprises 50 – 85% by weight of the polymer matrix based on the weight of the polymer matrix.

72. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein R is an organic compound having six carbon atoms.

73. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein R is an organic compound having eight carbon atoms.

74. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein R is 2-ethylhexyl-.
75. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein the pigmentary base is selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide, kaolin, talc, mica and calcium carbonate.
76. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 75, wherein the pigmentary base is titanium dioxide.
77. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein the amount of organo-acid phosphate compound in the pigment is from about 0.01 percent to about 5 percent by weight, based on the weight of the pigmentary base.
78. (New) A polymer matrix composition for plastics applications consisting essentially of:
- (a) a pigment, said pigment comprising an inorganic pigmentary base that has been treated with an organo-acid phosphate compound having the formula:  
$$(R-O)_xPO(OH)_y$$

wherein  $x = 1$  or  $2$ ,  
 $y = 3 - x$ , and  
R is an organic group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms;
  - (b) a polymer; and
  - (c) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of metal oxides, polyalcohols and alkanolamines.
79. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, copolymers of ethylene with alpha-olefins containing 4 to 12 carbon atoms, polypropylene, polycarbonates and polystyrene.

80. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 79, wherein said polymer is polyethylene.
81. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein said pigment comprises 50 – 85% by weight of the polymer matrix based on the weight of the polymer matrix.
82. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein R is an organic compound having six carbon atoms.
83. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein R is an organic compound having eight carbon atoms.
84. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein R is 2-ethylhexyl-.
85. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein the pigmentary base is selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide, kaolin, talc, mica and calcium carbonate.
86. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 85, wherein the pigmentary base is titanium dioxide.
87. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein the amount of organo-acid phosphate compound in the pigment is from about 0.01 percent to about 5 percent by weight, based on the weight of the pigmentary base.
88. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein the compound of (c) is a metal oxide and the metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of aluminum oxide, silicon dioxide and zirconium oxide.

89. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein the compound of (c) is a polyalcohol and the polyalcohol is selected from the group consisting of trimethylolethane and trimethylolpropane.

90. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein the compound of (c) is an alkanolamine.

91. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 90, wherein the alkanolamine is triethanolamine.

92. (New) A polymer matrix composition for use in plastics applications consisting essentially of:

- (a) a pigment, said pigment comprising a titanium dioxide base that has been treated with an organo-acid phosphate compound having the formula:

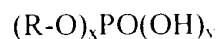


wherein  $x = 1$  or  $2$ ,  
 $y = 3 - x$ , and  
R is an organic group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms; and

- (b) polyethylene.

93. (New) A polymer matrix composition for use in plastics applications consisting essentially of:

- (a) a pigment, said pigment comprising a titanium dioxide base that has been treated with an organo-acid phosphate compound having the formula:



wherein  $x = 1$  or  $2$ ,  
 $y = 3 - x$ , and  
R is an organic group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms;

- (b) polyethylene; and
- (c) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of metal oxides, polyalcohols and alkanolamines.

94. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 92, wherein said polymer matrix forms a plastic film.

95. (New) The polymer matrix of claim 93, wherein said polymer matrix forms a plastic film.

#### **REMARKS**

In the above captioned application, the Examiner issued a Non-Final Office Action in which he rejected claims 39 - 67. Applicants express no opinion as to the merits of the rejection, but in the interest of furthering prosecution have canceled claims 39 -67, reserving the right to prosecute them at a later time in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications and hereby submit new claims that are directed to plastics applications. As noted on page 3, lines 21 – 22 of the specification, Applicants' invention is particularly beneficial in these applications.

Applicants' compositions as reflected in the pending claims have been described in terms that indicate that they are not directed to coatings applications. By specifying in the claim language that the compositions consist essentially of either the pigment and the polymer; or the pigment, the polymer and at least one additional compound from a specified group, Applicants have clarified that the claims are not directed to compositions that are dissolved in solvents such as water. Support for the types of composition, *i.e.*, without solvents such as water, may be found throughout the specification text and the examples. For example, the specification describes that when a solvent is used to dissolve a solid organo-acid phosphate, the solvent is allowed to evaporate prior to introduction of the treatment to the pigmentary base. *See e.g.*, page 12, lines 17 – 19. Similarly, prior to introduction of the pigmentary base to the treatment, the